

S.N.: 10/617,454
Art Unit: 2181

REMARKS

The Patent Office is thanked for its indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3-5.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-13 are currently pending. Claims 3 and 14 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the indicated-as-allowable subject matter of canceled claim 3. Claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the indicated-as-allowable subject matter of canceled claim 3. Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the indicated-as-allowable subject matter of canceled claims 3 and 14. Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to change their dependency from canceled claim 3 to base claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

The Patent Office rejected claims 1, 2, and 6-14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kacines, U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2001/0054102.

Base claims 1, 9, and 13, as amended with the incorporation of indicated-as-allowable subject matter of canceled claim 3, are allowable over Kacines.

The Patent Office is respectfully requested to reconsider and remove the rejections of the claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Kacines, and to allow all of the pending claims 1, 2, and 4-13 as now presented for examination. An early notification of the allowability of claims 1, 2, and 4-13 is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted:

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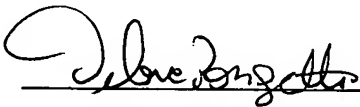
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dec. 11, 2007 
Date Name of Person Making Deposit